

ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2003

PRESENT: Chairman Gunnells, V. C. Brown, Councilmen Walker, Forrester, Norris, Calhoun, Thomas, Director Burns, Clerk to Council, Carol Chrisley

ABSENT: Attorney Pruitt.

1. Chairman Gunnells called the meeting to order with prayer given by Councilman Thomas

First item on the agenda was approval of minutes for regular meeting of February 10, 2003. Councilman Brown made a motion to approve these minutes that was seconded by Councilman Norris. Councilman Walker noted some amendments to the minutes. After a brief discussion, minutes were approved as amended.

Next item on the agenda was approval of minutes for meeting of February 17, 2003. Vice Chairman Brown made a motion to approve these minutes that were seconded by Councilman Walker and passed unanimously.

II, Presentations:

A. Lex Walters of Piedmont Tech. He addressed council by introducing two students from Abbeville County, Brandy Andrews of Donalds and Debra Tiller of the Lake Secession Area who were nominees for the 2003 All USA Academic Team. Dr. Walters introduced the two nominees to County Council and following the presentation of plaques, he provided a brief update on Tech and its operations.

B. Jamie Gilbert, Abbeville County Development Board. Mr. Gilbert addressed Council by saying that Abbeville County had a per capita economic performance rank of seventh in the state. We also ranked first in the Upstate for new and expanding firms, fifth in the Upstate for capital investment, and third in the Upstate for new jobs. The top counties in the state for economic performance in 2002 were Chester, Jasper, Lancaster, Marlboro, Spartanburg, Newberry, Abbeville, Sumter, Bamberg, Calhoun and Laurens. Two announced projects led the way in 2002. Those were the expansion of Beverage Air and Mohawk Industries which combined for a capital investment of \$8.5 million and 111 new jobs.

III. Committee Reports.

Chairman Gunnells asked both Councilmen Billy Norris and Claude Thomas to assist in an evaluation of the old Wright Middle School along with the City and bring it back to Council.

Councilman Thomas had a recommendation of appointments to the Board of Voter Registration from the Intergovernmental Relations Committee. The recommendations are Charlie Moore, Betty Henry, Elizabeth Ferguson, Bobby Ridgeway, Marilyn Helms, Mary Lou Edens. Councilman Thomas made a motion to approve these recommendations that were seconded by Councilman Norris and passed unanimously.

IV. Old Business:

A. Consideration of 3rd Reading of an ordinance to amend Ordinance 3-7-77 (Abbeville County Ordinance) regulating the placement, size, height and location of off-premise signage in unincorporated Abbeville County. Councilman Norris made a motion to keep this on the table. Motion was seconded by Councilman Forrester and passed unanimously.

B. Consideration of 3rd Reading to extend the Donalds-Due West Service Area further into western Abbeville County. Councilman Walker made a motion that this remain on the table. Motion was seconded by Chairman Gunnells and passed unanimously.

C. Councilman Thomas made a motion that before we move into new business that we add to the agenda item F. Petition to draft a resolution recognizing Brandy Andrews and Debra Tiller for their achievement. Motion was seconded by Councilman Norris and passed unanimously.

V. New Business:

A. Consideration of 1st Reading to 2003/04 Fiscal-Year Budget for Abbeville County. Councilman Walker made a motion to have 1st Reading that was seconded by V. C. Brown and passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Resolution to authorize the County Treasurer to transfer funds from the E-911 Account to the General Fund. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve this resolution that was seconded by V. C. Brown and passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Resolution to authorize the County Treasurer to transfer funds to repay the General Fund for loans made to various other funds. Councilman Walker made a motion to approve this resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilman Norris and passed unanimously.

D. Approval of Resolution to authorize transfer of \$130,000 from the Landfill checking account to the Landfill Closure Account. Councilman Forrester made a motion to approve the resolution that was seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed unanimously.

E. Approval of Resolution to authorize the transfer of \$50,000 from the Local Option Sales Tax Account to the General Fund. Councilman Norris made a motion to approve the resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed unanimously.

F. Councilman Thomas made a motion that we recognize Brandy Andrews and Debra Tiller for their outstanding achievements at Piedmont Technical College as well as being ambassadors and that we recognize them through a resolution to be brought back at our next meeting. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

V1. Director's Report:

A. Computer Training. Director Burns addressed council by saying that the process has begun and we are utilizing in-house employees for training on Microsoft, Excel, etc.

B. Director Burns informed council that the Association of Counties Annual Conference will be held on July 31-Aug.3.

C. Director Burns said that the audit is coming to an end and all information has been provided to them. It was his understanding that they will be prepared to present to council the final audit at the next meeting on March 10, 2003.

V11. Executive Session

A. Personnel Issue. Chairman Gunnells made a motion to go into executive session. Motion was seconded by Councilman Norris and passed unanimously. Chairman Gunnells reconvened regular session. He stated that nothing was discussed that required action on the part of council. Councilman Norris made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Councilman Forrester and passed unanimously.

